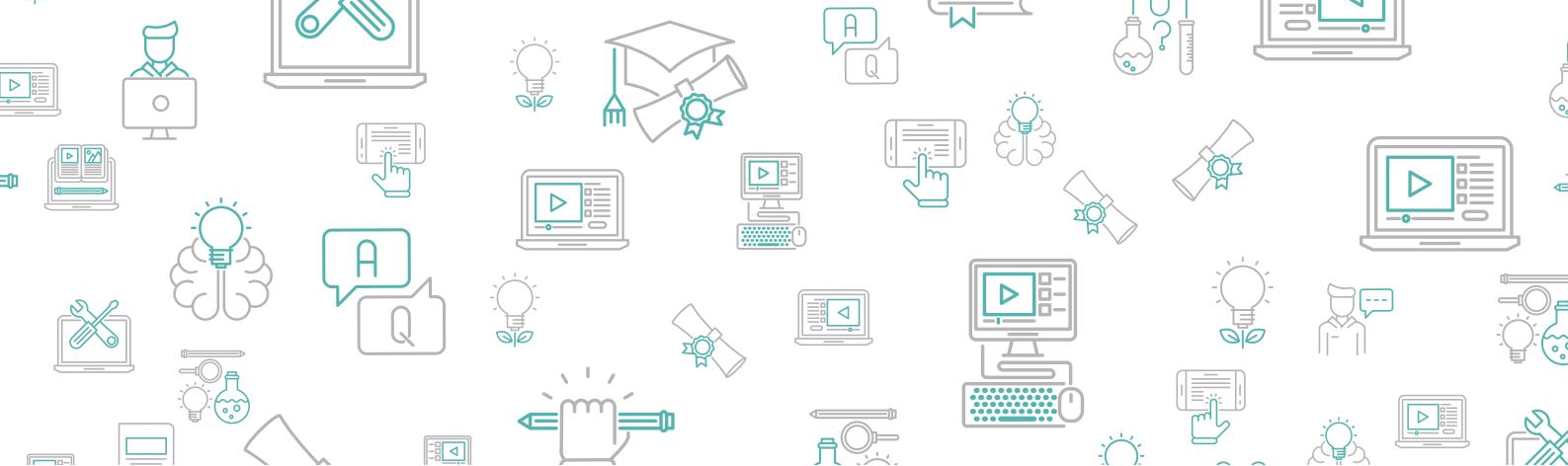




Tools For Solidarity

**Education for Sustainable
Development Report 2021-2022**



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Aim of Report

The aim of this report is to provide information regarding Tools For Solidarity's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme for the period September 2021 - August 2022.



Mission Statement

The objectives of the ESD programme include:

- raising awareness of the issues of inequality, poverty, exploitation of natural resources and overconsumption;
- promoting sustainability;
- encouraging everyone to reflect on how our lives and actions impact the world and others;
- engendering the ability to think critically and enact solutions to these issues and changes to our lifestyles.



September 2022
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Acknowledgements

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- Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs;
- The Ultach Fund and The Community Foundation;
- Roger Waters



TFS's ESD programme is funded by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Irish Aid is the Government's overseas development programme which supports partners working in some of the world's poorest countries. Irish Aid also supports global citizenship and development education in Ireland to encourage learning and public engagement with global issues. The ideas, opinions and comments herein are entirely the responsibility of its authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect DFA policy.



Overview of the Programme (Schools)

In the academic year 2021-22 TFS delivered its ESD programme to 19 primary schools, reaching 1,064 pupils in the Belfast, Lisburn and Downpatrick areas. The programme was delivered in Irish for the first time to 73 pupils in 3 Gaelscoileanna. The ESD group enjoyed being able to visit schools throughout the whole academic year for the first time since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. TFS are pleased to report that more children than ever before benefited from the programme.

We offered 6 sessions to primary schools which tie in with the Northern Ireland curriculum areas 'The World Around Us' and 'Personal Development and 'Mutual Understanding'. An overview of the school programme is provided below.

Session	Objectives and Outcomes
1: Inequality in the World	Increase knowledge and understanding of global inequality
2: Poverty	Increase understanding of concept of poverty; difference between extreme and relative poverty
3: Natural Resources and Reducing Waste	Knowledge about where resources come from and how we use them; understanding of the need to reduce consumption
4: Fairtrade	Show a practical example of how our decisions can make a difference; gain knowledge about where foods come from and how fairtrade works
5: Relative Poverty	Understanding of the causes of poverty, as well as the concepts of equity, equality and fairness
6: Extreme Poverty	Awareness of what it would be like to live in a developing country; further reflection on what our basic needs are

Groups and Schools 2021/22

Primary Schools

Name of School	No. of Participants
Ballysillan Primary School	59
Braniel Primary School	31
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	13
Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig	31
Cedar Integrated Primary School, Crossgar	27
Currie Primary School	31
Elmgrove Primary School	87
Gaelscoil na bhFál	29
Hazelwood Integrated Primary School	178
Holy Rosary Primary School	98
Knockbreda Primary School	45
Knocknagoney Primary School	37
Orangefield Primary School	63
Our Lady and Saint Patrick Primary School, Downpatrick	54
Sacred Heart Boys' Primary School	47
St Clare's Primary School	119
St Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn	60
St Vincent de Paul Primary School	31
Wheatfield Primary School	24
Total	1, 064

Youth Groups

	No. of Participants
An Droichead (Cumann Óige)	12
Whitehead Beavers and Cubs	16
Total	28

Adult Community Groups

	No. of Participants
Atlas Women's Centre	25
Colin Men's Shed	12
Greenway Women's Centre	19
Footprints Women's Centre	6
Total	62

Total of ESD Programme Participants

1, 154

What Teachers / Co-ordinators Liked:

I liked that the children were made aware of the different types of poverty that exist in the world. It also got them thinking about where their food comes from and introduced them to the concept of "Fair Trade".

Sacred Heart Boys' PS

an excellent way of encouraging empathy in children

Elmgrove PS

[The] content was very engaging & related to the class topic.

Cedar IPS

I loved how interactive the sessions were and the range of activities, eg. group work, role play – they were very child friendly & a good way to discuss big issues.

Hazelwood IPS

[The facilitators] built a lovely rapport with the children and allowed the pupils to think critically...such a worthwhile programme!

St Joseph's PS

respectful treatment of children's answers and well-structured sessions

Orangefield PS

Feedback from Pupils (in their Own Words)

We enjoyed learning about different materials and where they come from.

[I have learnt] that fairtrade can make a big difference in a farmer's life.

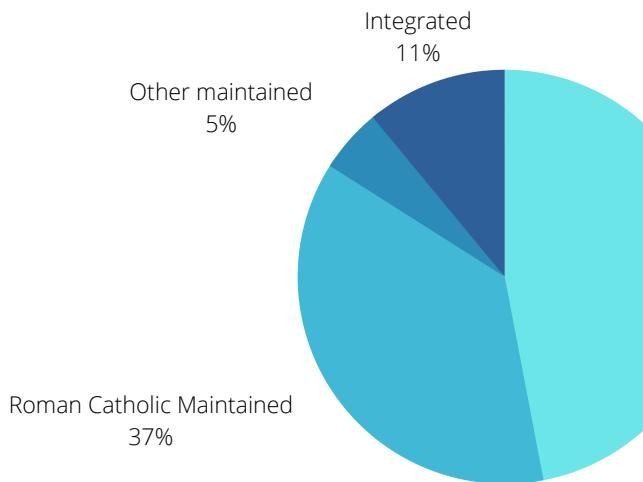
The most interesting thing that we have learnt is about how tools and sewing machines can help some people more than money.

[I have learnt] how lucky [we are] to have the things we have.

The most interesting thing I have learnt was about poverty.

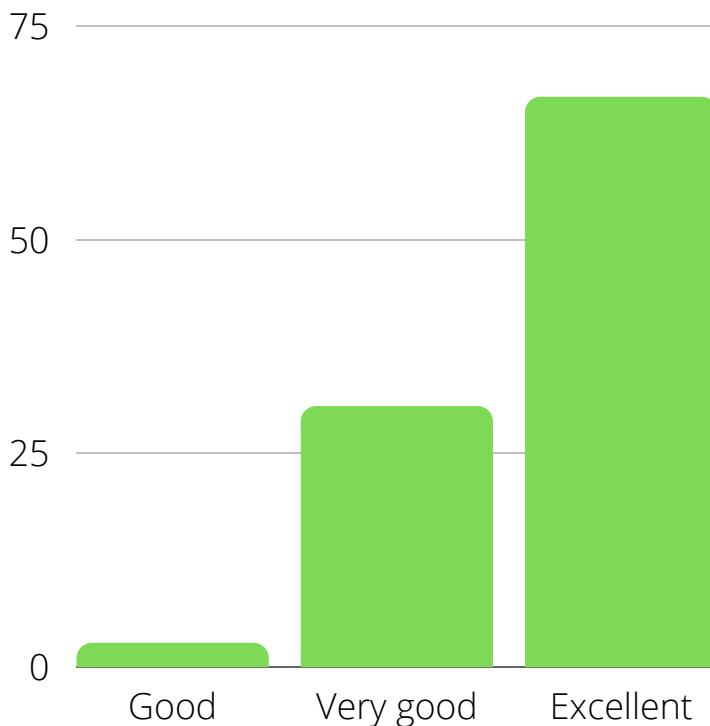
[It was interesting to learn] how much trash someone creates!

Types of School Visited:



TFS is committed to delivering the ESD programme in all types of school. TFS will continue working with all school types going forward.

Rating of TFS Educators:



Teachers of those classes who participated in the ESD programme were asked to rate how well the TFS Education Officer, Lead Volunteer and Volunteers delivered the programme. Of those surveyed, 66.7% felt that the facilitation of the activities was excellent, with 30.5% indicating that it was very good and the remaining 2.8% expressing that it was good. The ESD group is always striving to improve, as well as to ensure good practice .

ESD in Irish Medium Schools

TFS has been committed to intervening in all types of schools since the commencement of the primary school programme in 2013. Having previously been to a number of Irish medium schools, TFS was able to offer the programme in Irish for the first time this year. Recipients included pupils in Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig and Gaelscoil na bhFál. TFS would like to acknowledge all those who translated and proofread the content for the Irish language school programme. We are also very grateful to the Ultach Fund and Community Foundation, whose financial support allowed for the translation of the primary school programme materials.

School Exchange: Gaelscoil na bhFál and Njombe Schools for the Deaf

At the start of 2021 three TFS members made a field trip to Tanzania. Their time spent in the Njombe region was viewed as an opportunity by the ESD group to make initial contact with schools in the region and gauge interest regarding a school partnership project.

Subsequently, in 2022 Njombe Schools for the Deaf and Gaelscoil na bhFál exchanged photo presentations in which they gave an insight into life in their schools, as well as their areas and culture. We would like to congratulate both sets of pupils on their hard work!



Education for Sustainable Development for Adults

This year saw TFS implement its first dedicated ESD programme for adults. We delivered the new programme to three women's centres and one men's shed in the Belfast and Lisburn areas. Overall the programme received positive feedback and we will continue to deliver this series of workshops in the year 2022-23. See the overview of the programme in the next section. In all of the sessions adults were encouraged to identify tangible actions they could take to create a fairer, more sustainable world.

TFS is delighted to report that we have already seen some of the groups implement these actions. See the section on the 'Community Environment and Recycling Awareness Day' on page 11. The Colin Men's Shed put their skills to use, using scrap wood to make toolboxes which they donated along with tools to TFS in June 2022. The toolboxes will be sent out to young people finishing vocational training in Tanzania. The actions of the men's shed demonstrate a desire to reduce waste and also to act in global solidarity. Footprints Women's Centre have decided to plan a Clothes Swap event as an alternative to dumping clothes, an issue we discussed in the Fashion Industry session.

Overview of Sessions (Adults)

1: Fashion Industry	In this session, we grapple with such issues as the human cost of fast fashion and how we can change our relationship with clothes. We reflect on how we might reduce the number of clothes we buy, while getting the best out of the items we already have.
2: Food Waste	We discuss the problems with the world's food system. One problem is that a third of all food produced worldwide is wasted. We think about what we can do to reduce our own food waste.
3: Climate Emergency and Action	In this session we consider the effects of climate change and think about climate justice. We discuss solutions and how we can change our lifestyles for the benefit of the planet.
4: Cultural Diversity and Migration	In this session we examine cultural diversity and attitudes towards other cultures and migrants in Northern Ireland. We consider how we might welcome migrants to our communities.

Feedback from the Adult Programme

TFS received feedback from the first groups who partook in the 4 new ESD sessions for adults. Below are some of the things participants said in response to the questions:

- What was the most important thing you learnt?
- What action will you take on this issue?



[I won't] buy any new clothes unless essential.

the advantage of home grown food: better and no travelling involved

how hard it is to settle into a different culture / country

Community Environment and Recycling Awareness Day

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (including Colin Men's Shed) participated in the ESD programme in February 2022, and subsequently organised an event ('Community Environment & Recycling Awareness Day') in partnership with TFS. Over 10 local organisations had a stall at the event and shared information about their initiatives with the public. These included the Footprints Women's Centre (another recipient of the ESD programme). People in the Colin area of Belfast learned about Belfast groups who reduce waste, present sustainable alternatives to the pervading model of overconsumption and protect the environment. There were 50 attendees. The enthusiasm and willingness of the Colin Men's Shed with regards organising the event indicates the multiplying factor of the TFS ESD programme. We would like to acknowledge the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership for all they did in organising and hosting such a positive event.



Future of the ESD School Programme

The future looks bright for the ESD group who will start the school year 2022-23 after their busiest year to date! We especially look forward to offering a new session on climate change for KS2 pupils. Teachers' feedback highlighted the demand and need for this topic to be included. Thanks to a survey carried out in June 2022 we were able to collate input from teachers which will enable us to devise a participatory and transformative session on climate change. Those who filled in the survey indicated that the three most important aspects of the topic for TFS to cover are:

- human causes of climate change;
- taking action against climate change;
- examples of how communities around the world are adapting to climate change.

The ESD group is looking forward to expanding the programme.



This year the ESD website underwent a revamp, including the addition of the new resources the group had created during the previous academic year. These can now be accessed via the 'ESD Resources' section of the website. They may be used to complement the programme but can also be employed by educators as stand-alone materials. The ESD programme for schools is also now available to download within the 'ESD Resources' section, under 'Lesson Plans'. This will allow teachers and educators throughout the island of Ireland to access and use the programme materials. TFS will be promoting the resources widely in the next academic year. We will also be adding to the downloadable materials, including Irish language versions of many of the lesson plans and worksheets.



TFS is indebted to volunteers Daria, Sofia and Léna for all the work they have done on the website.

Volunteers

The ESD programme provides opportunities for both international and local volunteers, who can aid the Education Officer by presenting and facilitating activities, as well as preparing pedagogical materials. TFS would like to take the opportunity to thank volunteers, Sam and Noel, who did a second year of volunteering.



Noel took on the role of Lead Volunteer and therefore delivered sessions in some schools independently of the Education Officer, as well as helping to train other volunteers. Several volunteers new to the ESD group had a chance to hone their presentation skills and discover the global education sector. Many thanks to Rafaela, Astrid, Joel, Léna and Sofia for their dedication and the unique perspectives they brought to the programme.

Important Partnerships for the ESD Programme

During this period Roisin, the TFS Education Officer, renewed her membership of the Centre for Global Education. TFS remains a member of the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) and the Education Officer attended IDEA's annual conference in June 2022. Being a member of these organisations allows TFS's Education Officer to access training and resources and learn about best practice within the sector. TFS wishes to provide quality Education for Sustainable Development which can only be enhanced by engaging with other organisations who share our aims. TFS is a long standing member of the Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies N.I. (CADA). The Education Officer joined CADA's new Public Engagement, Development Education & Advocacy Group in the latter part of the year. The aim of the group is to support, promote and encourage collaborative development of members' Development Education activity.



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